occasion for its use as a depot, as we learn that prior to its sale, and when the private facilities for transportation were far less abundant than they are now, the govern-ment could so well accomplish all its purposes of supply to those two frontier posts, without the aid of Fort Suel-ling. This is a most curious and interesting fact, and deserves to be further elucidated.

con the apring of 1851 to the summer of 1856. I had charge of their econystated. I see not beare why Port Smiling should he our relations. I cannot obsculve that it is of any importance an anitary attained. If cannot obsculve that it is of any importance an anitary attained. For the policy is on a high build, and never will not never hat been, for my broadedig, used are depot for process consupplies. To be sure, pair-latous and supplies have been furnities of the other posts from there, because that past has been reduced, here was a large quantity on hand. But all the supplies for the ground reposts have been sum from the fault to Fort topley, and directly or posts have been sum from the fault to Fort topley, and directly

Again, we learn from the Hon. Henry M. Rice:

rom is. Pasi's considerable portion of the time since that fort was built. I know that last spring law a great many teams at St. Pasi for augules for Not Regiety. Whether they were purchased there or not, to soo know."

There is but one aspect of our national policy, as we think, in which it could be maintained that the government abould have held the control and possession of the Fort Shelling reservation, and that would have been, to have mot a requirement not called for by the existing military system of the country. Within the last twenty years a practice has grown up, founded in error, stimulated by local interest, and too much favored by Congress, of locating posts in advance of settlement, and of distributing our troops at numerous posts in small garrisons. Experience has shown that these small posts are nearly power-loss beyond their own limits, whilst they enormously multiply the cost of transportation, involve the frequent construction and abandonment of posts, retard discipline, and impair the efficiency of the troops. The present system is condemned by the most enlightened officers of the army. Secretary Davis, in his annual report of the lat of December, 1836, argues with much force and ability in favor of a change of the present policy; urges the selection of a few points, accessible by steamboat and rail-way, from which strong delachments should annually be sent out into the Indian country during the senson when the grasse will suffice for the support of cavalry horses, and becate of draught and burden. He cites with commendation, the occupation of Algeria by the French, as presenting a case of parallelism to our western frontier. Had these views met with the approval of Congress, it is manifest that Fort Snelling; either as a proof of defence or a depot of supply, we will proceed next lee xamine the concurrent views of several preceding administrations, a change as radical as that which is here suggested should receive critical examination, and perhaps require legislative action which are taken

uportant benefit which it must derive from an all-per-ading impression of its fairness, justice, and disinterest-dness. And yet it is difficult for any fair-minded man who reads the accompanying evidence, and learns that ystem of combination which controls the results of public sales in the West, to cast the slightest censure upon the motives and conduct of the commissioners of sale.

We would not appliand their act as a precedent. We cannot condemn it as an individual case, under the circumstances. That they acted honestly, and, in their judgment, for the best interests of the government, we have no doubt; that their mode of sale was beneficial to the public treasury we cannot question on the evidence; but we trust that some plan may be devised, if practicable, for the future, that will combine all the alvantages of sales in the West, to cast the slightest censure the future, that will combine all the advantages of

we trust that some plan may be devised, if practicable, for the future, that will combine all the alvantages of free and unrestrained competition, with the necessary safeguards for the public interests.

Whilst such are our individual opinions, it may be proper to remark, that no law has existed from the origin of our government to the present time, which requires or even contemplates a sale of a military reservation at public auction. On the contrary, the legislation of Congress has shown a marked diversity of policy in the regulations which it has prescribed for the sale of the great mass of the public domain, and those which it has adopted in relation to the reserves, severed from it. In the one case they have uniformly required them to be sold at public auction, the government being content, in view of the benefits accruing from settlement and cultivation, to receive the minimum price per acre, whilst in the other case, looking to the special value imparted to those reserves by the progress of settlements around them, and the public money expended upon them, have left the Secretary of War free to pursue that mode of sale which, in his judgment, was best calculated to realize their true and fair value. To carry out this manifest intention of Congress various modes of sale have been adouted, at different periods, by the War Depart. sale which, in his judgment, was best calculated to realize their true and fair value. To carry out this manifest intention of Congress various modes of sale have been adopted, at different periods, by the War Department, to realize, as far as practicable, the value of the reservations brought into market. In one instance, in the year 1840, where the reservation lay within the corporate limits of the growing and flourishing city of Chicago, it was surveyed and laid off in conformity to the general plan of that city, the streets extended, public squares reserved, and the residue divided into lots of twenty-five feet front, the property valued before sale, bids not amounting to one-fourth the cash value of the lots required to be rejected, and the bidding made by sealed proposals addressed to the commissioner of sale. In the case of the Fort Howard reservation it was divided into lots, a minimum price fixed, below which no sale was to take place, a public auction without any minimum prescribed, the price reduced by combinations to seven cents an acre, but the sale set aside and declared a nullity. Fort Snelling was sold by private contract. These are instances of the four different modes of sale, at different periods, and under variant circumstances adopted by the War Department. Undoubtedly the most unexceptionable in all its results of these public sales was that of the Fort Dearborn reservation, within the corporate limits of Chicago. The gross sales of the two hundred and fifty dots were one hundred and six thousand dollars. One lot alone yielded four thousand one hundred and fifty dollars, and several were bid off at two thousand dollars. One lot alone yielded four thousand one hundred are into in the tory; and the results of a sale of two hots in a city like This was a special case, and the only instance in our history; and the results of a sale of town lots in a city like Chicago can scarcely be regarded as an inexerable model in all other cases of sales of public property. The sale of Fort Snelling, except so far as it may be objectionable as a private sale, is the most advantageous ever made by the government, beyond the corporate limits of that

ity. In the objection which we have expressed to private rates of government property, it must not be inferred that there was anything in the facts or circumstances connected with the sale of Fort Snelling to give point to the remark, unless, indeed, it be that torrent of unfounded calumny and misrepresentation to which individual disappointment and partisan feeling gave rise immediately thereafter, and which may be regarded as one of the consequences that will usually follow a departure from the ed with the sale of Fort Seelling to give point to the remark, unless, indeed, it be that torrent of unfounded calumny and misrepresentation to which individual disappointment and partison feeling gave rise immediately thereafter, and which may be regarded as one of the content of the commissioners of the government act with judgment of the content of the content of the government act with judgment of the system of open and public bidding by the government. The metives which prompted the commissioners to prefer ing of your question. I think so, When I speke before of the impropriety of disposing of the receive at private sale, it was from the peculiar wording of your question. I think, as far as the matter of dollars and

a private to a public sale were honest and praiseworthy. The purchaser with whom they made the contract although without any legal pretension to be preferred, had such an equitable claim as to divest the preference shown him of every motive of improper favoritism and partiality, and the sum stipulated to be paid was the full and fair value of the property and more than could probably have been realised by any other mode of sale.

The ceasons which induced the action of the commissioners are set forth with great clearness in their official report, and also in their testimony taken before the committee, and they are sustained in their course by many of the most intelligent and best informed witnesses who were transined before the committed. Their reasons were—

1st. The lesson derived from the experience of the sale of public land in that section of country for the preceding ten years. Not a sale having taken place that combinations had not been successful in reducing the price to the minimum prescribed by law.

2d. They were astaked, not merely from the past experience of the government, but by evidence palpable to their own ears, that combinations were being formed to reduce this land to the minimum price.

3d. They saw, in the event even of there being no combinations, that it was otherwise imprecticable to carry out the instructions of the War Department, which limited them to the minimum of \$7.50 per acre. For, whilst some portions of the land might readily have commanded a price beyond the minimum, a considerable portion was worth much less, and a great deal not worth fifty cents an acre. They believed, therefore, that they would best advance the interests of the government, and comply with the instructions under which they acted, by redling the entire parcels at private sale to some responsible purchaser, either at the minimum price prescribed by their instructions, or for such greater sum as, upon a careful examination of the property, they might conclude to be its fair and full value.

The practical saga public lands, so prevalent in the new States and Territo-ries, we will present a few extracts from the testimony of some of the witnesses, whose means of information will not be questioned, and whose public positions would af-ford them motives to suppress, rather than magnify the

evil. The Hon. George L. Becker, representative elect from Minnesota, in reply to questions submitted to him before the committee, answered as follows:

"Question 1418. De you suppose that, if Fort Seelling and been offered at public sale, there would have been a fair competition for the

fered at public sale, there would have been a fair competition for the purchase of the reservation?

"Answer. I think not. I should judge that the probabilities are, that, if a public sale had taken place, the same thing would have occurred which took place in reference to that part of the reserve which was sold some three or four years ago.

"Question 1419. If it had been sold in small parcels, would not you, as a speculator, have been desirous of purchasing a portion of it?

"Answer. You are aware that we have a system in the West, which is a part of the unwritten hav of the hand, by which claim associations are formed by parties for the purpose of protecting each other at these public sales. It is very rare that government hand ever brings more than a dollar and a quarter per acre at public sale.

"Question 1420. Does not that system apply mostly to those claiming pre-emption rights?

"Question 1421. It it considered honorable among the men in gour country to carry out such a system where there are no presentation rights?"

"Answer. It is. We do not look upon the government as a land epocalator. Such combinations were formed at the time a portion of his reserve was sold three or four years ago. Clatins were made upon it, and the parties went on to make improvements. An association was formed by the parties interested. They appeared at the and office on the day of sales. The sale was confucted quietly and without disturbance, but the land was all purchased at a dother and a quarter per acre.

"Question 1422. Were yet ever engaged in such a combination?

"Answer. I bid off a part of that land."

The Hon. Henry M. Rice testified as follows:

The Hon: Henry M. Rice testified as follows:

"Question 2532. Had the land been advertised and sold at public acction, what, in your judgment, and from your knowledge of that country, would it have yielded to the government at public sale of "Answer I do not think it would have brought more than the minimum price; I am satisfied it would not, for I advised the sottlers about there to go in and buy it. I favored any plan which would keep it out of the lands of non-residents.

"Question 2533. While you disapproved of the mode of sale, is it your opinion that the commissioners adopted the mode of sale, is it your opinion that the commissioners adopted the mode of sale, is it in a sale of the same had I been, appointed commissioner to sell; but have done the same had I been, appointed commissioner to sell; but shing a resident in that immediate region, I did not like the mode in which it was sold.

"Question 2534. The interest you felt, as I understand you, was an interest in behalf of the people rather than in behalf of the government! I would rather it had brought sity cents an acre than what it did bring, so far as the government is concerned. I think the public lands should be held in trust by the government to speculate in them.

"Answer, Yes, sir; I did not care anything about the government. I would rather it had brought sity cents an acre than what it did bring, so far as the government is concerned. I think the public binds should be held in trust by the government for the use of the people, and I do not think it proper for the government to speculate in them.

"Question 2556. Bid you inform Major Eastman that a combination would be formed if the sale was made in a trable request.

a them.

"Question 2556. Did you inform Major Dostman that a combination could be formed if the sale was made in a public manner?

"Answer. I do not know whether I informed him or not. I be eved there would be one, and very likely I told him so at he time; if I did, it was prior to his being appointed commission to sell, or prior to my knowing of his appointment. I have never nown a sale to take place in the West that these combinations were of formed.

mptor: ? wer. That was on the west side; that part of the reserve on

reaces and so of valentle public lands without encountering these combinations?

"Answer. It is very difficult, because, if they are encountered successfully, the people will always come to Congress for relief. For Aklason, where I was stationed as suthes, cost more than \$100,000. It was sold at public sale, with the improvements. The improvements sold, I think, for about \$3,000 or \$4,000. The purchaser, the very next assisted, came to Congress for permission to enter a half section of land, including these improvements, for a dollar and a quarter per acre, and it was granted.

"Question 2560. Have you any special reasons for supposing a combination would have been formed in this instance?

"Answer: I have; and I think I so stated in a communication to the Secretary of War, in which I expressed the desire that the tract toould be sold in lots of \$40 acres cach, so as to enable men of small means to purchase. I expressed the same optition openly on all occasions when spoken to be bout it; and I was often spoken to in reference to it by men who had gone and made the improvements which had given it is value all around it. I wished that these men should have, an orportunity to purchase.

"Question 2561. Then your object was to enable your neighbors in that vicinity to purchase it at a dollar and a quarter per acre! "Answer, I was my object to enable them to purchase it at the lowest price."

Francis J. Rosser, ex-secretary of the Territory

"Question 1958. Is it your opinion that, if the commissioners in posed this Fort Suelling reservation at public sale, there would have on combinations which would have brought the price down belo it paid for it? Answer, I am satisfied of it—perfectly satisfied of it.

Question 1749. What, in your opinion, would have been the difference in the results had they advertised that land and sold it at publicate, or made the sale in the manner they did, at private sale, to single individual at \$90,000.

Answer. I think it would have sold for comparatively nothing if it addeed sold in the way in which the sales usually take pince at the and office.

ad been sold in the way in which the same and office.

Question 1750. Why, in your judgment, would it have sold for less fit had been sold at public sale?

Answer. There is generally an agreement among porchasers to get the land for as low a price as possible, and those who get it at their own price and those who hold their tongues are paid for it. Such

ngs have been general at the West.

H. L. Dousman, esq. : I have attended a great many sales of public land, and has been as habit is that country to form combinations, and to appoint one can to bid and to purchase the property at a nominal price, and then oliving it up among all who formed the combination; it has also been ustomary, when government lands were to be sold in that way, for quatters to go upon it, it is bart to get them off, and they claim a sort fore-emption right. I presents the object of the commissioners was avoid anything of that kind.

W. J. Cullen, esq., superintendent of Indian affairs for

Guestion 1552. Can you give to this committee your opinion what could probably have been the result if the commissioners, instead of the probably have been the result if the commissioners, instead of the particle of the probably and the probably and the probably and the probably and the probably are got from afteen cents to \$1.25 an acts for it.

Question 1553. What are the grounds of that opinion? Answer Western people like to reake motivy, and there is a good seal of unanimity of feeling among them. They like to buy property ery cheap and they do not bid against one another as they do where hey have plenty of capital.

Modison Swedger, coq., of Minnesota :

There are other witnesses who testify to the same practice in the West, but we pass them by to introduce an extract from the evidence of Franklis Steet, esq., who, although the purchaser of the property, occupies so high a position for integrity and truth that we feel no difficulty in presenting his statement as entitled to the fullest confidence:

Question 1155. Did you decline entering into that combination? Answer. I declined. Question 1154. Understand you to say that if this reservation haven sold at public action it would not have brought as much as it did at private sale?

Answer. That is my opinion.
Question 1165. Why then did you bid for it at private sale, without seeking to have a public sale made of it?

Answer. Because if it had been sold at public sale I might have been deprived of purchasing more than a quarter section, or legal sub division.

Question 1166. Explain how you would have been prevented from purchasing more than a quarter section?

similar to that formed when the other portion of the reserve was sold.

The commissioners having decided, for the reasons set forth, to dispose of the property at private in preference to a public sale, and to sell the entire reserve in a body, they opened a correspondence with Franklin Steele for its sale. We can see nothing in the preference thus shown to Mr. Steele which should subject their motives to any suspicion. To one of the commissioners, Mr. Heiskell, it seems he was an entire stranger. With the other, Major Eastman, he was scarcely upon friendly terms. And who is Franklin Steele? A pioneer of the wilderness and one of the earliest settlers west of the Mississippi. He is a gentleman of intelligence, enterprise, and public spirit, of admitted pecuniary responsibility, and of acknowledged integrity and weight of character. But the commissioners, in their official report, have so clearly disclosed the reasons which prompted them to make the contract of sale with him, that we shall permit them to speak for themselves:

"We find upon the reservation extensive improvements made by citizens, the cost of which cannot be less than 350,000; they date back

ed them to make the contract of sale with him, that we shall permit them to speak for themselves:

"We find upon the reservation extensive improvements made by citizens, the cost of which cannot be less than \$30,000; they date back some to entry years. And we also find that they are all owned and in possession of the pest sutler. Franklin Steele, esq. *Many of the improvements ware linde by himself, with the knowledge and consent of the officer in command at the time. He has a large and elegant dwelling, with houses corresponding. The fort is so situated at the junction of the Massissippi and Minnesota rivers, that a ferry for the accommodation of the fort, across each river, has been indispensable. And we find that Mr. Steele was authorized to establish and maintain said ferries, which he did, and has, for years, transported officers and men and munities of war across, day and injut, free of charge to the gevernment. He has belt ferry-houses, put out and constantly is a fine of the steeled of the severnment. He has belt ferry-houses, put out and constantly is attendance. He has, also, built a warehouse. There is a large and valuable stone building with a frame addition, making an extensive house, which has been furnished and used as a hotel, which could not have cost less than \$15,000. The stone part was built in the year 1837, by a Mr. Baker, afterwards sutler at Fort Snelling; it was sold to Kenneth McKensie, eaq., who, in 1853, put on the extensive addition alluded to—put the curre building in good order and furnished it for a house of accommodation, Mr. Steele haxing arranged with Mr. Kenneth McKensie for this property, and secured the government from all claims from this source. We are positive, therefore, in saying that Mr. Steele is the only claiment to the improvements upon the same made by clitzens.

"The question then arose as to the improvements made by Mr. Steele we could not admit that he was such a settler as would come under your instructions, for he admitted that he had never been induced to be

copy of which we herewith transmitter your action thereon."

It may be proper here to state that at the time the contract of sale was made between the agents of the government and Franklin Steele, an arrangement existed by which Dr. Archibald Graham, of Virginia, John C. Mather and Richard Schell and wife, of New York, were to be recognised, in conjunction with Mr. Steele, as joint owners of the property when purchased; their respective interests were arranged as follows: Steele to be entitled to one full third; Graham, Mather, Schell, and wife, the remaining two thirds; the parties to pay the purchase money in proportion to their interests in the property. The contract was made with Steele alone, and the proof is conclusive that the agents of the government proof is conclusive that the agents of the government were ignorant at the period of its execution, and for some time subsequent thereto, that any person was concerned or interested in this purchase except Franklin Steele, the individual with whom the contract was made.

evidence which requires our examination—that relating to the value of this property and the price at which it

Was it sold by the Commissioners for an inadequate price? All who have any recollection of the defamatory publications which, during the last summer and fall, followed the contract of sale, will remember how pertinationsly the idea was sought to be impressed upon the public mind, that property belonging to the government worth one million and a half of dollars had been recklessly serificed for the sure of \$200. It was in waiting sacrificed for the sum of \$90,000. It was in vain that sacrineed for the sum of \$29,000. It was in vain that a correct exposition of the true value of this property was submitted to the public; in vain that a reference was made to all the previous land sales of the country, and the fact demonstrated that this reservation had sold for a higher price per acre than any percel of public land had ever been sold by the government, except, alone, the Fort Dearborn reserve, lying within the corporate limits of the city of Chicago; no check could be given to the remorseless spirit of detraction, and the public wind continued to be poisoned by the repetition of the grossest representations of the exaggerated value of this property. At the opening of Congress a committee of investigation was asked, amongst other matters, to ascertain the real value of the property and that committee vegetations of the property. of the property, and that committee promptly accorded. In the progress of the investigation thus ordered, thirty-four witnesses were examined touching its value, of which number eight only have expressed the opinion that it sold below its true value; her have testified that the price obtained was what the property, in their judgment, was rairly worth; hearty-four have expressed the opinion that it sold beyond its fair value.

That there should have been found some individuals.

fairly worth; theosys-four have expressed the opinion that offer the substitute of the control o

perior advantages for a city, have, in their evidence, expressed an extravagant opinion of its value. There are many facts connected with Fort Snelling to favor suck a delusion. Its situation at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers—the impression for many years entertained that such would be its future destiny—its beautiful location, its picturesque and staking scenery, the

delusion. Its situation at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers—the impression for many years entertained that such would be its future destiny—its beautiful location, its picturesque and stilking scenery, the government buildings presenting to the eye a city in embryo, were well calculated to dazzle the imagination and blind them to the irreversible realities around it.

It will thus be seen, by an inspection of the accompanying evidence, that whatever substantial diversities are to be seen in the testimony of the witnesses bearing upon the value of the property, results mainly from the impression which they have respectively received as to its eligibility as a site for a city, and believing such to be its future destiny, they think that element in its speculative value was not sufficiently considered by the commissioners in the price asked and obtained for the property.

The undersigned being without the benefit of any personal knowledge of the locality in question, and not being gifted with the prophet's wand to remove the curtain which conceals the future, will not venture to express a personal judgment as to what may be the future destiny of this point at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. But if, upon an occasion like the present, they are to be controlled in their opinions by the testimony laid before them, they have no difficulty in saying that both the weight of opinion and the weight of facts largely preponderate against the idea that the Fort Snelling reserve can ever be the site of a city.

The witnesses who have expressed the opinion that the value of the reserve is enhanced by the advantages of its position as a town site are Hon. Robert Smith, M. C. Smith, Adam D. Stuart, T. C. Hall, T. B. S. Todd, Cyrus Aldrich, Captain George Thorn, Capt. T. H. Simpson, and Matthew Johnson.

The witnesses who think that difficulties of an insuperable character exist to its becoming the site of a city are the Hon. S. A. Douglas, Hon. H. M. Rice, Hon. Charles E. Stuart, Hon. G

ns as conclusive.

The Fort Saelling reserve is situated about six miles north of St. Paul, a growing and flourishing city of 15,000 inhabitants, and about eight miles south of St. Anthony inhabitants, and about eight miles south of St. Anthony and Mineapolis, two prosperous manufacturing towns, each with a population at this time of from eight to ten thousand inhabitants. Whatever may have been the advantages of Fort Snelling as a site for a city, we concur with the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, "that it is now too late to start a new town so near to those with a hope of fairly competing with them. The reservation is too near those other towns to become their rival, and too far off to be laid out as an addition to either of them."

Many of the other witnesses exhibit facts which, to a great extent, destroy the idea that its natural position ever adapted it for a town.

ver adapted it for a town.

Hon. Henry M. Rice states:

'In the early days of the settlement of that region the only boats which ran upon the Upper Mississippi were the smallest class. When he Galena packets commenced running in connexion with the rail-out they were unable to get above St. Paul in low water, and that very fact lowered the value of the Fort Smelling property in the pub-

Again he says;

"In the summer of 1849 Heft there. I then had my depot indiately across the Minnesotts river, and for two or three mouths of summer of 1848 steambouts were unable to get up there. They cogo a short distance above St. Paul, but they could not get up to point. I was then an owner in some of the boats which ran up the They landed my freight three or four miles below the fort, and II to send down flat boats at a heavy expense to take it to Mendota, then requested the officers of the boats to inform me what was highest practicable point of marginalion for large-class beats. These an examination, and then informed me that what is now known as the upper latining of St. Paul was the highest point of marginator large class beats in low water; and though I had building. Mendota with Mr. Stoley, I removed down the river and started depot at St. Paul. I bought a portion of what is now St. Paul, and, I think, two dollars an acre for it, and put up my store hon there."

Let us now examine and compare the evidence bearing upon the question of the value of the property.

Major Eastman, who made a survey of it, fixes the quantity in the reserve at 7,500 acres, of which 1,000 acres he states is water and irreclaimable marsh, such as, under the swamp-land act, would pass by donation from the government to the State, leaving but 6,500 acres fit for cultivation or use of any kind. This, at \$90,000, the price for which it was sold, was equal to, or within a few cents of, \$14 per acre.

ents of, \$14 per acre.

Hon. Robert Smith states that he would have given four times the price for which it was sold. The honorable gentleman admits that he has rather a mania for land, and we think his friends, after reading the accompanying evidence, will find reason to congratulate him that he was prevented by circumstances from going the "extent of his pile," and of investing all his Illinois property in the receives upon such terms.

the purchase upon such terms.

M. C. Smith thinks it was worth \$25 per acre for agricultural purposes; but, considering its advantages as a town site, he estimates its value at \$400,000.

Cyrna Aldrich thinks it was worth \$20 an acre for agricultural purposes; but, considering its advantages as a town site, he estimates its value at from forty to fifty dellures as a second site.

dollars an acre.

Captain George Thorn says the property could have been sold so as to have brought \$150,000, and perhaps more.

Williamy B. Hencock estimates its value at \$200,000.

Captain James H. Simpson thinks that portions of it would have sold at \$200 an acre, and none of it less than \$20

r \$20 an acre.

These are all the witnesses who testify to a value exceeding that for which it was sold by the commis-

nore than \$11 per acre "From my knowledge of the land, I J. G. McVeigh: "From my knowledge of the land, I think it sold for full as much as as it was worth. I do

mot think it will bring that now."

Madison Sweetzer: "I do not think it was worth more than \$99,000. The question has been frequently asked, and I have always said I never would give \$90,000 for it. I would not give that to day. If I had the money I would not purchase it for \$60,000."

Alexander C. Jones: "Take the whole tract together I would not think it worth were than \$6 or \$7 as ages."

would not think it worth more than \$6 or \$7 an acre."

Andrew Ellyon: "The land sold for more than I would pay for it."

G. B. Citherall fixes the "value of the tract, after a

careful estimate of its different soils and capabilities, at \$55,000."

Thomas Mercure: "I think the price paid for it, its full value. If I had been the purchaser I would not have

recommended by the majority of the committee.

Risolesd That the recent sale of the military reservation
Saselling, having been made by the Secretary of War, under
rection of the President of the United States, in strict cer
to law, and the evidence reported by the select committee
falled to exhibit any fact or circumstance tending, in the
degree, to impuse the fairness of the sale or the integrity of
the officers or agents of the government concerned in the one

CHAS. JAS. FAULKNER. H. C. BURNETT. RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Great Awakening is still going on. We trust it will long continue to be so. We know no reason why the prayers and efforts of God's people should not still be

Right Rev. Dr. Demers, Catholic Bishop of Vancouver, sailed in the steamer Philadelphia on the 17th ult. for Aspinwall, and hence to San Francisco. He took with him for his distant mission five sisters of St. Ann, and two priests, lay brothers.

Rev. Matthew Hale Smith is lecturing in New York on Sabbath evenings on "The true unity of the Church of Christ, illustrated in the biography of eminent ministers of different denominations," computising, among others, the life of John Wesley, the Methodist; Hall, the Baptist; Bedell, the Episcopalian; Edwards, the Congregationalist; Witherspoon, the Presbyterian; and Livingston, the Reformed Dutch.

Rev. II. Wayd Beecher recently administered immersion to treath four property and converte members of his convergence.

Rev. II. Ward Beecher recently administered immersion to twenty-four recent converts, members of his congregations, who objected to being "sprinkled." Mr. Beecher and the candidates were attired in baptismal robes, and the rites were administered after the usual form of the

Baptist church.

Rev. Clardes Cock, a missionary well known in Europe, has been taken away in the midst of a life of great activity. He was loved by all who knew him. He had been employed in the south of France in the work of God for forty years. His last moments are described thus in the journal of his own church: "Our brother preached four weeks before his death. When lying on the bed of death he still exhorted to conversion those who came to visit him. Not a murmur proceeded from him in the midst of his sufferings. He prayed continually. 'I am very happy,' he said to his wife. 'How! happy with this dreadful suffocation?' 'Oh, it is nothing!' he said; and he died suddenly in the midst of one of these suffocating fits.''

Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania, sailed from Philadelphia for Europe in the Liverpool packet Savannah on Friday last. He was accompanied by his wife and children, and goes abroad to recruit his strength, which has been much enfeebled by his arduous labors in his diocese. The bishop held a farewell service with the Episcopal clergy of Philadelphia, at St. Paul's Church in the morning, when the hely communion was administered by Rev. Drs. Vanghan, Ducachet, Suddards, and Newton. The congregation was dismissed with the benediction from the bishop, and the whole body of his clergy then accompanied him to the ship.

Episcopal Convention.—The next annual meeting of this body for the diocese of Virginia will be held in Winchester, in May next, beginning on Wednesday, the 19th. The convention is composed of clerical and lay delegates from every part of the diocese, usually numbering from one hundred and fifty to two hundred; and the religious services of the occason never fail to attract a large concourse of visitors. We are pleased to learn that preparation is made for the accommodation of the delegates in the families of our citizens, both in and out of the Episcopal Church; many of the visitors will no doubt be provided for in the same way and our comfortable hodels.

copal Church; many of the visitors will no doubt be provided for in the same way, and our comfortable hotels and boarding houses will be ready to receive others. It is understood that the stage and railroad fare on the dif-ferent lines leading to Winchester will be reduced in fa-vor of the delegates, but to what extent we have not learned. The Vatican. - The word "Vatican" is often used, but

the fancan.—The word value is often used, but there are many who do not understand its import. The term refers to a collection of buildings on one of the seven hills of Rome, which covers a space of twelve hundred feet in length, and about one thousand in breadth. It is built on the spot once occupied by the garden of the cruel Naro. It owes its origin to the Bishop of Rome, who, in the early earl of the sixth contains covered an hundred Nore. It owes its origin to the Bishop of Rome, who, in the early part of the sixth century, crected an humble residence on its site. About the year 1060, Pope Engenius rebuilt it on a magnificent scale; Innocent II, a few years afterward, gave it up as a lodging to Peter II, king of Arragon. In 1605, Clement V, at the instigation of the king of France, removed the Papal Sec from Rome to Avignon, when the Vatican remained in a condition of obscurity and neglect for many years. It is now the residence of a triangle of the side of pository of multitudinous treasures of art.

The General Assemblies of the Presbyterian church will hold their annual meetings this month. The Old School is to convene in New Orleans, on Thursday, May 6, in the First Presbyterian church, and will be opened with a sermin by the Rev. Cortlandt Van Rensselner, D. D., the last moderator. Several questions of great interest and importance will occupy the attention of that body. The assembly that recently met at Knoxville, Tenn., being the southern ministers and churches who separated from the New School on account of slavery, have appointed by the Old School, on uniting these two bodies. The terms the Old School, on uniting these two bodies. The terms the Old School, on uniting these two bodies. The terms the Old School, on uniting these two bodies. The terms the Old School, of the Presbyterian church will be presented as the Presbyterian church will be opened with a serior by the object of the owner from the total create in Misconian and Minusconia, and secure to the owner from ten to twelve per cent interest per body to be on the owner from the total create in Misconian and Minusconia and secure to the owner from ten to twelve per cent interest per body to be observed to some the owner from ten to twelve per cent interest per body to be observed to some the owner from ten to twelve per cent interest per body to be observed to some the secure than in New York, for the reason that hands are advancing to be observed to some the owner from the towner from the twenther and course the owner from the twenther and the secure that, &c. &c.

The selling or leasing of lands, lots, dwelling house, or earlier the selling or leasing of lands, lots, dwelling house, or earlier the selling or leasing of lands, lets, see an white selling or leasing of lands, lots, dwelling house, or earlier that the selling or leasing of lands, lots, dwelling to commission to make cellections, pay taxes, examine the critery of the selling or least selling or lands, lets, dwelling tents, &c. &c.

The selling or leasing of lands, lots, dwelling the Old School we have published in full, and they are such as in the view of many render it quite improbable that any action will be taken in the premises. The New School Assembly meets at Chicago, in the Second Presby-terian church, on Thursday, May 20, and is to be opened with a sermon by the moderator of the last as Rev. Samuel W. Fisher, D. D.

Rev. Samuel W. Fisher, D. D.

The Boy Preacher.—Crammond Kennedy, the boy preacher, as he has been designated, discoursed on Sunday evening at the Baptist Church, Christopher street, New York, (Rev. J. O. Adams pastor.) to a densely crowded audience. This remarkable youth is but fifteen years old, and was born in Scotland. His mother is living, and resides in Canada. During the past two years he has lived in that city, and has been a clerk in the house of Aikens & Miller, Broadway. It is a mistake that he is a convert of the late revival. He says that he experienced religion when he was eight vears old, but \$55,000. He had been the purchaser I would not have paid that much for it.

Thomas Mercure: "I think the price paid for it, its full value. If I had been the purchaser I would not have paid that much for it.

Former T. Rosser: "I would not like to give, even for purposes of speculation, more than \$7 or \$8 an aere."

How George L. Becker: "I should think it would hardly be considered worth more than \$\$, \$10, or \$12 an aere."

Captain J. A. Whilball: "I do not consider the land worth the price given for it. I said at the time it was the best asie of government land I had ever hoard of."

W. T. Callen: "I expressed my opinion to Mr. Steele, at the lime the sale was made, that I thought it sold for all it was worth, and I had ever heard of."

Chomel Francis Lee, U. S. A.: "I think they paid a plenty for it."

J. W. Lynde thought it was worth "from \$\$ to \$10 an aere."

S. A. Medery thinks "the average value from \$\$ to \$10 an aere."

B. W. Brisbons "setsimates it from \$10 to \$12 per aere."

Charles H. Oakes: "I think \$\$90,000 was more than the land was worth, and I so stated at the time of sale."

J. E. Flecher: "I considered the land worth \$\$12 5 op per acre."

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A. M. Frielley: "Worth now about \$\$5 per acre; at the land was worth, and I so stated at the time of sale."

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cloness.
The "Bulleris" will particularly notice the insentire generality. New patents and the Patent Office will be looked at constant care. All who desire to know what is doing in this all important department of government will find it recorde

NEW MATHEMATICAL AND CLASSICAL SEMINARY—br. J. H. A. BRIDGE, having ituished the souncetton usually pursued in the northern colleges, and ha seperience in the business of teaching, proposes to open a Ye lement's Seminary in Wachington, of a high and select charafooday, April 12, at 9 o'clock, a m.
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The proprietor has provided a coach, which will be at the rained depot and steamboat landing at every arrival for the conveyage passengers and beggage to the hotel.

Out 1-

H. GILLET, Counsellor at Law, has removed the his office to his residence in Frankin Row, corner of K. Thirteenth streets. He will continue to devete his attention pried to cases in the United States Supreme Court.

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Mar 20-differ-

FURNISHED ROOMS.—Parlors with Bed-roomss tached to them, gas lights, etc., at No 225 Fermsylvania area opposite Willards' Hotel.

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April 27—6td

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E. McDONALD would respectfully inform her customers, a public generally, that she will open on Saturday, May 1st, a choice selection of Spring and Summer Millinery of the various orn styles of the season, to which she invites their attention. No. 71 Bridge street, Georgetown, D. C. Ap 29—

M ISS HOSMER'S BEATRICE CENCI SLEEPIN
This exquisite piece of sculpture, executed at Rome by R
rict Hosmer, the American sculptress, on exhibition for a limitel
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Admission 25 cents. Hours from 11, a. m., till duck.
The proceeds of the exhibition for the benefit of the artist
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